

## REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on July 16, 2003 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Examiner rejected claims 1-28. By way of this Response and Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 18, 19, 21, and 21 without disclaimer or prejudice and amended claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28. After entry of these amendments, claims 1-17, 20, 23-28 remain in the above-identified patent application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 16, 2003, and also render all currently pending claims at issue patentably distinct over the references of record.


The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 9-10, 14, 17, 20, 23, 25, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by one or more of: U.S. patent no. 4,688,026 as issued to Scribner et al. on August 18, 1987 (hereinafter referred to as "Scribner"), U.S. patent no. 5,689,238 as issued to Cannon, Jr. et al on November 18, 1997 (hereinafter referred to as "Cannon"), U.S. patent no. 5,732,401 as issued to Conway on March 24, 1998 (hereinafter referred to as "Conway") and/or U.S. patent no. 4,143,369 as issued to Ayers on March 6, 1979 (hereinafter referred to as "Ayers"). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 24, 28 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over one or more of the following U.S. patents, individually or in combination: Scribner, U.S. patent no. 5,515,419 as issued to Sheffer on August 18, 1987 (hereinafter referred to as "Sheffer"), U.S. patent no. 3,805,265 as issued to Lester on April 16, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "Lester"), Conway, Ayers, and/or U.S. patent no. 4,636,950 as issued to Caswell et al on January 13, 1987 (hereinafter referred to as "Caswell"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as originally filed are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the references of record. However, Applicant has amended the claims to further distinguish Applicant's invention. Reconsideration is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicant respectfully submits that the above-identified application as amended is now in condition for allowance and the Applicant therefore earnestly requests such allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss the foregoing response and amendment, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060.

If for some reason Applicant have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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